

## The Lord's Prayer—Lead Us Not...

### Study Questions

#### Matthew 6:13

##### Warm-up

**1) When was the last time you actively looked for a way to “prove yourself” to someone (in your ability, courage, loyalty, etc.)? Why was this important for you? How did it turn out? Was there a time when you sought to “prove yourself” and it didn’t go so well?**

##### A little deeper

**2) [Matthew 6:13a; Psalm 141:4]** In the first part of verse 13, Jesus would have us ask God to keep us from trials—particularly temptations. Read Psalm 141:4 as well. **How do you think it shapes someone’s heart to pray prayers like these regularly? How likely do you think it would be that a person who prays like this would put themselves into precarious situations? Conversely, why might someone allow themselves to put into precarious situations?**

**3) [Matthew 6:13b]** Because of sin and evil, anyone can find themselves surrounded by trouble, even if they’re trying to avoid it. This portion of the prayer reminds us that we should be calling out to God when we find ourselves in peril. **Consider situations where someone gets into trouble either unexpectedly or intentionally, and how they might respond when trouble comes (such as giving up, powering through it themselves, or crying out to God). Who receives recognition or glory in each situation (if anyone)?**

**4) Describe a time that God rescued someone from a situation where they were in danger even though they were trying to live their life for God.** (Try to think of recent examples, but you might draw inspiration as well from biblical stories like those in 1 Samuel 17:34-37, Daniel 3, or Acts 12:1-11).

**Can you recall situations where someone was rescued from a dangerous situation without being quite so deserving?**

##### Bringing it home

**5) Do you find yourself in a recurring situation, where you succumb to temptation and/or lose something important? What are the motivations that bring you to those points? How might you rely more on God (and His church) both before and during these situations to break the pattern?**

**6) As Americans, we often look at scripture as if it’s directed at us as individuals, but it is often useful to take a step back and look at it again to see how it might pertain to larger communities. Are there any ways in which our church, our community, or our nation falls into temptation or danger? How can we re-orient the Lord’s prayer to recognize our need for deeper relationship with Him at all levels, from individual to national?**

##### Reflection & Prayer

**7) Take a moment to pray through each portion of the Lord’s prayer but do it “popcorn” style—with different people using their own words to speak more personally to God (not expecting everyone to have something for every part). Be sure to take time at the end to seek God’s help with specific temptations and situations.**